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**From:** CN=Tim Vendlinski/OU=R9/O=USEPA/C=US  
**Sent:** Thur 4/5/2012 11:56:36 PM  
**Subject:** Re: On habitat for delta smelt in the SF estuary...  
[Hamilton\\_Murphy\\_05Apr12.docx](#)  
<http://www.epa.gov/region9/water/watershed/sfbay-delta/index.html>

Thanks for following up, Dennis.

I look forward to reading your paper. Right now, I'm in the midst of moving my office. Meanwhile, I'm sending it along to Bruce Herbold who I'm sure will find it interesting.  
Best Regards, Tim

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From: Dennis Murphy <dennisdanielmurphy@gmail.com>  
To: Tim Vendlinski/R9/USEPA/US@EPA  
Cc: <brockbernstein@sbcglobal.net>  
Date: 04/05/2012 03:14 PM  
Subject: On habitat for delta smelt in the SF estuary...

Tim -- We talked about the appropriate application of the term "habitat" in conservation planning in the Delta generally, and in the context of the low-salinity zone, at your workshop last week. I think that misuse of the term is compromising a useful understanding of the roles of environmental stressors affecting the desirable fishes in the Delta. But, more affirmatively, I thought that you might find this paper, which I submitted for publication today, treats habitat for one species, the flagship at-risk species in the Delta, in its appropriate context. Strikingly, the salinity gradient in the estuary does serve as a coarse filter in determining the distribution of delta smelt, but it would be the least appropriate environmental factor among those we studied to be used as a surrogate measure of the extent and quality of delta smelt habitat for purposes of conservation planning. This piece might contribute to setting the very important issue of the location of the low-salinity zone in the estuary into

a better-informed management agenda... Regards, Dennis